MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

3 MAY 1982

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Iranian Account of Offensive -- On 30 April Iran launched an offensive on the southern fronts which it identified as the "Jerusalem operations," according to a Guards Corps and armed forces communique carried by Tehran radio. During these operations thousands of Iraqis were killed or wounded and 3,205 captured Iraqis were taken to the rear, a later military communique carried by Tehran radio reported. During the offensive, 800 square km of Iranian territory were liberated, the communique asserted. Hundreds of Iraqi tanks, personnel carriers and vehicles were destroyed and six Iraqi aircraft were shot down. Another Iranian communique reported that Iranian forces had crossed the Karun River, breaking the Iraqi defense line, and had succeeded in taking over the Ahvaz-Khorramshahr communications and supply highway.

IRNA claimed on 1 May that more than 6,000 Iraqi troops were killed or wounded during fighting on the southern fronts, with more than 4,000 Iraqis captured since the "Jerusalem operations" began on 30 April. According to IRNA, 80-95 high-ranking Iraqi officers were among those captured. Three more Iraqi aircraft were shot down on 1 May bringing the total to 9, according to an armed forces communique carried by Tehran radio. Fighting was reported on the Baneh and Marivan fronts as well as on the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab and Sumar fronts, the communique noted.

An early morning attack on 2 May by Iranian forces against Iraqi positions west of the Ahvaz-Khorramshahr highway resulted in heavy Iraqi casualties, according to an Iranian military communique carried by Tehran radio. During these operations another part of Iranian territory near the Hoseyniyeh and Garm Dasht stations was liberated, the communique reported. Part of the 8th Mechanized Brigade, the 606th Brigade and the 24th Mechanized Brigade of Iraq were smashed, according to the communique. Iraqi forces mounted three counteroffensives in the Hoseyniyeh region on the morning of 2 May which were repulsed by Iranian forces, Tehran radio reported.

Mopping-up operations in the area between the Karun River and the Ahvaz-Khuninshahr Road continued on 2 May with the Iranians penetrating to within 15 km of the Iraqi border, Tehran radio reported. In another report the radio claimed three Iraqi aircraft had been shot down by Iran on 2 May.

Iraqi Account -- According to an Iraqi Armed Forces communique carried by INA, Iranian forces participating in the offensive in Ahvaz and Susangerd were totally destroyed. The Iraqi forces inflicted massive losses on the Iranian forces near the Karun River and forced them to retreat. A later Iraqi communique carried by INA announced that 5,672 Iranians were killed during the fighting on 30 April. It also noted that Iraqi planes carried out 218 combat missions against Iranian troops concentrations in the Ahvaz and Susangerd sectors. The communique reported that Iraqi helicopters conducted 40 combat missions and noted that all Iraqi planes and helicopters returned safely to base. It added that Iraqi antiaircraft defenses shot down five Iranian helicopters and one plane during the fighting. An Iraqi military spokesman described as untrue Iranian claims that five Iraqi aircraft had been shot down, INA reported.

A total of 8,794 Iranians were killed during battles on the Ahvaz and Susangerd fronts and in the 4th Army sector between 30 April and 1 May, according to a 1 May Iraqi Armed Forces communique carried by Baghdad radio. The communique said other Iranian losses included 2 fighter planes, 13 helicopters, 97 tanks and 26 armored personnel carriers.

Iraqi forces confronted and completely destroyed Iranian forces which carried out an early morning attack in the Ahvaz and Susangerd fronts on 2 May, according to an Iraqi military communique carried by Baghdad Voice of the Masses radio. An attack by Iranian forces in the area west of the Karun River was also foiled, the communique added noting that the Iraqis responded with a counterattack. Thousands of Iranians were killed in the fighting in Susangerd, Ahvaz and in the area west of the Karun River, the communique reported.

According to a later Iraqi military communique carried by Baghdad radio, on 2 May "massive" losses were inflicted on Iranian forces in fighting at the Taher-Halub Bridge area west of the Karun River. The communique reported that Iraqi planes continued to launch attacks against Iranian positions in the Ahvaz and Susangerd areas, destroying large numbers of tanks and vehicles and killing large numbers of Iranians. Two Iranian planes and one helicopter were shot down in the Ahvaz sector, the communique claimed.

The communique reported that Iranian forces suffered "massive" losses in their dawn attack in the Jananah area. The Iraqi commander in that sector said Iraqi forces destroyed five Iranian offensives, according to Voice of the Masses radio. Iranian losses in the Jananah area amounted to 1,500 killed during the early morning attack, Baghdad radio reported citing a military spokesman.

Iran

Shari'atmadari Interview -- Ayatollah Kazem Shari'atmadari said he regretted that he had not informed the government about plans for a plot against the regime, AFP reported citing a Tehran television interview with Shari'atmadari. At the same time, the religious leader appealed to Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni for a halt to public attacks against him.

Iran-India Communique -- Iran and India, while expressing "grave concern" over the situation in Afghanistan, called for a "just and comprehensive solution" to the issue based on the complete withdrawal of foreign forces, on principles of nonintervention and noninterference and full respect for Afghanistan's independence and sovereignty, according to a joint communique broadcast by Tehran radio.

Iranian-U.S. Relations -- Iran has had no relations with the United States, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said in an interview with Delhi radio cited by IRNA. Velayati said that if Iran sold oil to a country with which it has commercial relations and subsequently that country sold the oil to the United States, then that was a different matter, totally unrelated to Iran. He emphasized that Iran would never think of having relations with the United States while it continued its enmity toward Iran.

Iraq

Austerity Plan -- The government has decided on a policy of austerity and expenditure cutbacks, giving priority to the war effort at the expense of all else, AFP reported citing the MIDDLE EAST ECONOMIC SURVEY.

Assassination Attempt -- President Saddam Husayn was attacked by two of his guards on 30 April when he came out of his office, Tehran radio's Arabic service claimed. Two of Husayn's guards were killed and another four wounded in the attack although the president was not hit, the radio maintained. Monitored Iraqi sources have not reported the incident.

Israel

West Bank, Gaza Situation -- The Israeli authorities dismissed the mayor of 'Anabta, Mahid Hamadallah, after he had been convicted by a military court of violating confinement orders and of possessing illegal material, Jerusalem radio reported on 30 April. West Bank and Gaza Municipal Councils subsequently issued a statement, broadcast by the clandestine Voice of Palestine radio, that denounced Israel's actions against West Bank mayors, demanded the reinstatement of the dismissed officials and called for the abolition of the civil administration. The municipal councils will suspend their work if their demands are not met, the statement warned. In a related statement carried by the radio, a PLO official said the mayors' collective note expresses the will of the Palestinian people to reject the civil administration and is consistent with the stand of the PLO leadership.

Meanwhile, Jerusalem radio reported a number of disturbances in the West Bank. Palestinian youths attacked a police station and a village league office in the Hebron area on 1 May. The following day stone-throwers injured a bus driver and an Israeli civilian shot and wounded a girl from the 'Arrub refugee camp who had been among a group of demonstrators blocking a road. Noting that the 14-year-old girl was seriously wounded in the head, the Jerusalem POST said two Arabs from the Shuafat refugee camp were also injured by gunfire when the IDF broke up a demonstration. Disturbances likewise occurred in the Gaza Strip, according to ITIM.

Security authorities have captured 27 terrorists in Tulkarm, MA'ARIV reported on 30 April.

No Settlement Resolution, Sabbath Flights -- After Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres had made it clear to Prime Minister Menahem Begin that the Labor Party would not support a government resolution against the future evacuation of any Jewish settlement, the Cabinet decided not to submit such a proposal for Knesset approval, according to Jerusalem radio reports. Instead Begin will merely refer to the matter in his 3 May Knesset speech, according to IDF radio.

The Cabinet also decided to stop EL AL flights on the Sabbath and holidays, Jerusalem radio noted.

Sagi on PLO Ties With Egypt -- IDF intelligence chief Maj Gen Yehoshu'a Sagi charged that Israel has categorical proof that Egyptian Army leaders and senior Egyptian Government officials have been in contact with PLO military officials, Jerusalem radio reported.

Jordan

Soviet Experts -- Soviet military experts have begun arriving in Jordan to prepare the integration of Soviet weapons into the Jordanian Army, the Jerusalem POST reported. During his visit to Moscow last year King Husayn signed a $200 million arms deal with the USSR, mainly for air defense systems, the paper noted. Jordan intends to position most of the Soviet equipment near the meeting point of its borders with Israel and Syria, Jerusalem radio reported.

Egyptian Military Committee -- An Egyptian military committee arrived in Amman on 2 May to settle problems of Egyptian nationals "who have not served the national service," AD-DUSTUR reported.

Egypt

Mubarak Speech, Activities -- President Husni Mubarak said in a May Day speech to the Trade Unions Federation Center, broadcast by Cairo radio, that Egypt needs a "great leap forward" in industrial and agricultural production within the next few years. Stressing that both the public and private sectors must be strengthened, Mubarak revealed that government ministries are drawing up a list of projects that can be offered to foreign investors.

NDP Changes -- The committee reviewing National Democratic Party affairs will meet on 4 May to discuss replacing some leaders in the Secretariat General, some provincial secretaries and some chairmen of subcommittees, MENA reported citing AL-JUMHURIYAH.

PLO

Syrian-PLO Relations -- Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf stated that the Syrian-Palestinian strategic alliance agreement, which was recently formulated in Damascus, will soon be drafted in its final form in the presence of leaders of the PLO, the Lebanese Nationalist Movement and the Amal movement, the Voice of Palestine radio reported. In a statement in Qatar, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat denied a strategic agreement had been signed with Syria, WAKH reported. However, he said meetings will soon take place between Palestinian and Syrian leaders.

Relations With Egypt -- Those Arab kings who sent congratulations to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak on the Israeli withdrawal from the Sinai do not realize they are endorsing the Camp David accords and the Egyptian peace treaty with Israel, Salah Khalaf stated in a speech carried by the Voice of Palestine. He added that the withdrawal could never be a subject of congratulations and happiness. Khalaf predicted that Egypt will return as a leader of the Arab struggle without conditions.

Lebanon

The United Kingdom plans on reducing the size of its embassy staff in Beirut due to the deteriorating security situation there, the LONDON PRESS ASSOCIATION reported.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

South Asia

Vol VIII No 085

3 May 1982

MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW i

AFGHANISTAN

Ziray Addresses May Day Rally in Kabul C 1
Karmal Receives Foreign Delegation 1 May C 1
AFP: New National Defense Body Being Formed C 2
AFP: Fighting Intensifies in Provinces C 3
'Error' Causes Explosion of Military Depot C 3

INDIA

No Dates Fixed for Gandhi's U.S., USSR Visits E 1
Iranian Foreign Minister Concludes 5-Day Visit E 1
Meets Gandhi, Others E 1
Gives Radio Interview E 1
Holds News Conference E 3
IRNA Report E 3
Joint Communique Issued [Tehran] E 4
Departs From Delhi E 6
Akali Dal Leader Sentenced to 1 Month in Prison E 6
Government Bans Two Sikh Nationalist Groups E 6

IRAN

Reportage on 30 Apr-2 May Fighting in South I 1
Joint Communique No 3 I 1
Commander Interviewed I 1
Joint Communique No 4 I 2
Iraqi Officer Interviewed I 3
Joint Communique No 5 I 3
Invitation to Reporters I 4
Area Liberated I 4
Armardeh Heights Recaptured I 5
Air Force Attacks Iraqis I 5
Forces 15 Km From Border I 5
Iraqi Counterattacks Repulsed I 5
Khamene'i on 'Delay' [AFP] I 5
Goods Needed at Front I 6
Joint Communique No 6 I 6
Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique 875 I 7
Velayati Denies Oil Sales, Relations With U.S. I 7
Velayati Interviewed Upon Return From India I 8
KEYHAN Carries 20 Apr Qotbzadeh Interview [20 Apr] I 9
Khomeyni's Office Issues Message of Thanks I 11

ZIRAY ADDRESSES MAY DAY RALLY IN KABUL

LD020620 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 1 May 82

[Excerpt] Today, 1 May, coincides with International Labor Solidarity Day and is being celebrated in our country by tens of thousands of our workers and toilers in rallies and glorious meetings. A meeting held by the epoch-making workers and other toilers at 1000 this morning in front of the headquarters of the PDPA Central Committee was attended by a number of members of the party Central Committee, vice chairmen and a number of members of the Revolutionary Council, some members of the Revolutionary Council Presidium, the chairman and some members of the Council of Ministers, delegations of the friendly countries who have come to Kabul to mark the fourth anniversary of the glorious April Revolution, members of the Executive Committee of the National Fatherland Front [NFF], heads, secretaries and members of party and social organizations and tens of thousands of the toiling citizens of Kabul City.

The meeting started after the playing of the Internationale. Saleh Mohammad Ziray, member of the Politburo and secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and chairman of the NFF National Committee, explained the role of the international workers in the progressive movements and then spoke about the struggles of the workers and toilers of the world and the epoch-making workers of Afghanistan against international imperialism and colonialism.

Dr Saleh Mohammad Ziray conveyed to the participants of the meeting and other toilers and workers of the country and greeting of Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and chairman of the DRA Revolutionary Council. Speaking on behalf of the PDPA Central Committee and the NFF, he congratulated them on their work in the international labor movement.

While the crowd constantly chanted slogans for yet more victories for the working class, Dr Ziray further highlighted the [word indistinct] living conditions of the country's workers and the exploitation of our workers by the colonialist forces in prevolution era. He gave a series of facts relating to the unfortunate condition of our persecuted workers. Dr Ziray said:

It was the tactics of the exploitative and decadent monarchical and feudal regimes which caused the patriotic forces of the country to form the PDPA, this party of the workers and all toilers of the country, to save the people; the path of this relentless and constant 17-year struggle.

Now we see ourselves that the victory of the April Revolution, under the leadership of the PDPA, which toppled the monarchical regime, has transformed the working class from an exploited class to the class owning the state sector. The party has provided conditions for raising the standard of living and culture of the people.

In connection with friendship between the workers and toilers of Afghanistan and progressive countries and international progressive movements, led by the USSR, Dr Ziray said: As iron is tested by time, so has the friendship of our toiling masses with millions from the great country of the Soviets been tested by history. No power will be allowed to damage this fraternal friendship of our people.

KARMAL RECEIVES FOREIGN DELEGATIONS 1 MAY

LD011554 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 1 May 82

[Text] Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and chairman of the DRA Revolutionary Council, received this afternoon in the Revolutionary Council headquarters the delegation of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, led by Mitke Dimitrov Grigorov, which is in Kabul to mark the fourth anniversary of the glorious April Revolution. The meeting was held in a friendly atmosphere.

According to another report, Babrak Karmal this afternoon also received the heads and delegations of the People's Republic of Hungary, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, the Republic of Cuba, the People's Republic of Mongolia, the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen and the USSR. Babrak Karmal spoke with them about subject of mutual interest in a friendly atmosphere.

These delegations are in Kabul to mark the fourth anniversary of the glorious April Revolution following invitations from the Revolutionary Council, the Council of Ministers and party and social organizations.

AFP: NEW NATIONAL DEFENSE BODY BEING FORMED

BK300817 Hong Kong AFP in English 0700 GMT 30 Apr 82

[By Dilip Ganguly]

[Text] New Delhi, 30 Apr (AFP) -- The Afghanistan Government has decided to merge the various security organizations with the armed forces into a single defence body to counter insurgency more effectively.

These include para-military forces, defence of revolution units and tribal groups fighting for the government.

A decision to establish new national defence organization was taken at the March 13-14 conference of the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan. An official English translation of the resolution passed at the conference, attended by 841 delegates, reached the Indian capital early this week.

Indian area analysts, with access to first-hand information from Kabul, said the Soviet-backed government there has already started preliminary work to implement the plan, which is likely to affect the power balance in the embattled country.

The new national defence organization is expected to have a combined strength of 100,000 men, including 30,000 from the country's armed forces.

They will aid the 90,000 to 110,000 strong Soviet forces, now spread over seven military zones in countering the insurgents fighting the regime of President Babrak Karmal, the analysts said.

The reorganization plan was also independently confirmed by diplomatic and Afghan dissident experts here.

"The intensification of the struggle with the armed counter-revolution, the establishment and still further consolidation of popular power in the districts and the sub-districts, and the stabilization of the situation, and consolidation of durable peace all over the country should form the major part of activities of the party committees," the resolution said.

"For this consideration a single and general system of defence which besides the army contingent and units of security organizations, includes also the groups for the defence of revolution and voluntary groups of tribes, should be created..."

The resolution also called for raising the standard of political and combat preparedness of the cadres of the national defence organization and emphasised the need for "special attention to military and patriotic trainings."

Area analysts interpreted the decision as a clear sign of nervousness of the Kabul regime about countering growing insurgency.

Western diplomats had estimated the strength of the insurgents actually fighting the Soviet-aided government troops at 90,000, with tens of thousands of sympathisers. However, the Indian analysts put the effective strength of the insurgents at 40,000 to 50,000.

The strength of the Afghan Armed Forces which was between 80,000 to 90,000 at the time of the first Marxist coup in April 1978 has depleted to 25,000 to 30,000, according to Western diplomats. But the Indians put the present strength at 45,000 which includes 22,000 young draftees.

However, the desertion from the army forced Mr. Karmal to promulgate new draft laws earlier this month empowering the regime to draft college and school-going students. The miniumum age was lowered to 19.

The Indian analysts said that if Mr. Karmal succeeds in enlisting 100,000 men in the national defence organization, and turns it into an effective fighting force, it will not only help to counter insurgency, but will reduce considerably the dependence on the Soviet military help on whose strength the 53-year-old president now rules his country.

AFP: FIGHTING INTENSIFIES IN PROVINCES

BK271621 Hong Kong AFP in English 1600 GMT 27 Apr 82

[Text] New Delhi, 27 Apr (AFP) -- Fighting has intensified in the outskirts of the Afghan capital and in the strategic Paghman mountain range 20 kms (12 miles) southwest of Kabul, between Soviet-aided Afghan Government troops and Moslem insurgents opposed to the regime, Western diplomats said here today.

The diplomats, who monitor developments in strife-torn Afghanistan said improved weather conditions had been a factor behind the spurt in fighting.

On April 19-20 government troops clashed with the insurgents in Khoje Musaffir -- between Paghman and Kabul -- and in the ensuing battle at least 35 government troops were killed. Insurgent casualty figures were not immediately known. The battle forced the government troops to retreat to Kabul. But in retaliation, Soviet jets bombed the area. The extent of property damage and casualties was not known.

Shewaki village on the Kabul city outskirts was also the scene of a day-long battle between government forces and the insurgents and the sound of gun and armour fire could be heard from the Afghan capital, the diplomats said.

On April 19, the insurgents engaged a government column in a day-long battle in Lowgar Valley south of Kabul.

Fighting was also reported from Pol-e Qandahari, about 50 kms (30 miles) south of Kabul. Details are not known, the diplomats said.

Numerous, but sketchy, reports of fighting in several other areas adjoining the capital were also given by the diplomats.

Quoting an unnamed senior Afghan Government official, the diplomats said the strategic bridge over the River Oxus (Amu Darya), connecting the Soviet town of Tirmiz with the Afghan hamlet of Hariatan will be opened to traffic by the middle of next month. The government proposes to lay a railway line connecting Tirmiz with important Afghan cities as far as Pol-e Khomri.

'ERROR' CAUSES EXPLOSION OF MILITARY DEPOT

LD011706 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1530 GMT 1 May 82

[Text] According to a report from the National Defense Ministry there was a spontaneous explosion this morning at the central military depot in Darulaman [on outskirts of Kabul]. The explosion occurred through error on the part of depot workers. The report added that no loss of life has been reported.

NO DATES FIXED FOR GANDHI'S U.S., USSR VISITS

BK291609 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 29 Apr 82

[Text] An official spokesman said in New Delhi today that dates for the prime minister's visit to the United States and the Soviet Union are under active discussion with the host governments to ascertain mutual convenience. He was replying to questions by newsmen on reports about postponement of the visits. He said since no dates have been firmly fixed or announced, there is no question of any postponement.

The dates of Mrs Gandhi's visits to Denmark, Norway and Finland have also not been finalized so far, he added.

IRANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER CONCLUDES 5-DAY VISIT

Meets Gandhi, Others

BK291617 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 29 Apr 82

[Text] Visiting Foreign Minister of Iran Dr Velayati met Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi in New Delhi today. He called on President Sanjiva Reddy and Vice President Hidayatullah. He met the defense, information and broadcasting and some other ministers.

Dr Velayati's other important engagement was the plenary session with External Affairs Minister Narasimha Rao in which delegations from both sides also took part.

An official spokesman said that the discussions covered the international situation, particularly developments in the region besides bilateral relations.

Dr Velayati said that Iran would prefer to strengthen its relations with the Third World countries, nonaligned nations and its neighbors.

Gives Radio Interview

BK011530 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1545 GMT 30 Apr 82

["Spotlight" feature: Interview with Iranian Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati by All-India Radio correspondent C.V. Rahman -- recorded -- Velayati remarks in Persian fading to English translation]

[Text] [Question] Mr Velayati, you are the first foreign minister of Iran to visit India after the revolution. Indeed, sir, you are the first senior Iranian minister to do so. Could you tell me about the result of your discussions with the Indian leaders?

[Answer] I begin in the name of God. I believe that the conclusion of our negotiations with Indian leaders was fruitful and useful. We feel that such visits between Iran and India should be repeated in the future at different levels.

[Question] What were the subjects you discussed with the Indian leaders? I am sure commercial and economic matters must have figured prominently in your talks.

[Answer] Our discussions with our Indian friends were in connection with our (?beautiful) relations, Nonaligned Movement and, as you said, commercial and economic relations, expansion of cultural relations through exchange of professors and students, considering the fact that India is relatively advanced as far as scientific and technical questions are concerned. Besides, to see if there exist cultural [word indistinct] points between the two countries we can provide professors in the fields of literature and culture and religious sciences to India. Besides, we can receive Indian students in Iran and receive Indian professors in Iran in order to help us in technical, scientific and industrial fields. Besides, our students can come to India for learning industrial and technical fields. Besides the exchange of experience, (?technicians) and the like between the two countries with a view to better introduce the two countries to each other. [sentence as heard]

[Question] These are mainly the cultural aspects about which you have told us. Did you discuss any specific industrial project in which you think India can cooperate with Iran?

[Answer] We had discussions in technical and industrial fields with the Ministry of Industry. We proposed India to assist us in the development and completion of our steel industries and creation and expansion of our smelting complexes.

[Question] I presume this proposal of yours has been examined or is going to be examined by the Indian Government or has it been accepted?

[Answer] After these preliminary discussions, committees have been formed to discuss this question. Several of the members of our delegation with their counterparts from India are continuing their discussions and within today or tomorrow the results will be known -- that how much they have agreed. And, in fact, our discussions are the beginning for these studies. On the whole, I can say that our approvals were welcomed by Indian authorities.

[Question] Did you also discuss with the Indian representatives the expansion of trade between India and Iran?

[Answer] We had discussions with the minister of commerce and it was decided that the commerce between the two countries should be expanded. What we wanted is to buy those items from India that can help the reconstruction, the future reconstruction, of our country. As regards the export of similar items, that is to say, items which both Iran and India export, we proposed that instead of negative rivalry, we should have a constructive cooperation. As far as such items are concerned, we should cooperate in a way to be to the interest of both countries. Otherwise, by negative rivalry, only the buyers are the winners because the prices will be low.

[Question] What, sir, are these items in which Iran and India should cooperate and should not have competition?

[Answer] These are mostly agricultural, medical products and certain spices.

[Question] Mr Minister, there was a report in the newspapers recently that Iran has agreed to have talks with Afghanistan and Pakistan on the Afghanistan issue. In fact, it is stated that the talks will begin in Geneva from 16 June in the presence of the special representative of the UN secretary general. Could you, sir, elaborate on this?

[Answer] We have never agreed on having discussions with the representatives of the Government of Afghanistan.

[Question] But is it true that these talks would be held and you won't talk directly with the representatives of the Afghanistan Government but through the UN secretary general's envoy?

[Answer] We think there is nothing wrong with that but we don't go to any special place. The representative of the United Nations Organization can continue the work that he had started, that is to say he can come to Tehran and can go to Kabul and Islamabad and continue his efforts. There is no problem with that. But more than this we don't accept. That is to say, we don't send any representative to Geneva. But the special representative of the United Nations can continue his organization [as heard] can come to Tehran and have discussions with us and can know our views.

[Question] Mr Minister, the United States has recently purchased Iranian crude oil through a third party and one interpretation is that the United States now wants to normalize its relations with Iran. What is the stand of the Government of Iran to this?

[Answer] We don't have any kind of transactions with America. Bu now, if a company belonging to another country, I am not accepting this; I am assuming, if a company from another country that has relations with us buys our oil and then sells it to the United States, this is another question. We are not for selling our oil to America and as long as the American hostility against us continues we will not restore our relations with the United States and the history of the last 3 years since the victory of the revolution shows that America does not want to put an end to its hostilities against us.

[Question] One last question, sir: Has the Government of Iran succeeded in putting down the mojahedin movement, or is it still continuing?

[Answer] To the Iranian Government the question of mojahedin is considered as a finished question for a long time now. Mojahedin are not more anything to be considered in our country. They don't have a popular base among people, as they didn't have in the past. And a few of their leaders that are still alive have run away to Paris and are close to Bakhtiar and the former shah's crown prince. Therefore, for the time being we don't have any question called mojahedin in Iran.

Holds News Conference

BK011607 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 1 May 82

[Text] Visiting Iranian Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati has said that closer political relations between India and Iran will eliminate superpower presence and will restore peace and tranquillity in the Gulf region. Addressing a news conference at the end of his visit, he said his talks with Indian leaders had been fruitful. He expressed the hope that his visit would lead to greater cooperation between the two countries in commercial, industrial and cultural fields. He said there would be greater exchange of students and professors, particularly in the technical field. He also spoke of India's advanced technology which Iran can make use of for its reconstruction program without the need of being aligned with any country. Iran is ready to help India by its long experience in the oil industry.

About Kudremukh, he said an Indian team would shortly visit Iran to continue the negotiation. He said the prospects of coming to an agreement are promising.

Dr Velayati reiterated Iran's opposition to holding the coming nonaligned summit in Baghdad. He has said the countries may not attend the summit if it is held there. That would weaken the movement. He claimed that the Iranian forces had recaptured some of the territories occupied by Iraq.

In reply to a question, Dr Velayati said Iran has no intention of interfering in the internal affairs of any other country.

IRNA Report

LD021022 Tehran IRNA in English 0941 GMT 2 May 82

[Text] New Delhi, 1 May [IRNA] -- The minister of foreign affairs, Dr Velayati, said today his talks with Indian officials were constructive and contributing to friendly relations between Iran and India. He said the visiting Iranian delegation to New Delhi had extended an invitation to the Indian officials and expressed hope that the future visit to Iran by Indian officials would help to further the friendly relations between the two countries.

Velayati also said that during his talks with the Indian officials he had told them that in the near future the Islamic Republic of Iran would invite them to Iran so that they could witness the falsehood of the claims of the Baghdad regime about the situation in the battlefronts.

He said with its advanced technology, India could help Iran in technical fields without making Iran dependent on that country. Asked about his attitude toward the situation in Afghanistan, he said the Soviet troops were bogged down in Afghanistan and that the Soviet Union should pull out its troops from that country. "This, of course, does not mean that the Soviet troops should be replaced by other foreign troops...," said he.

He said if the Soviet Union should refuse to do so, the Afghan strugglers would push them out from their lands.

Joint Communique Issued

LD021546 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 2 May 82

["Text" of joint communique issued on visit of Iranian Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati to India 28 April-2 May -- issued simultaneously in Tehran and New Delhi on 2 May]

[Text] At the invitation of His Excellency Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao, India's minister of external affairs, His Excellency Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, minister of foreign affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, paid an official and friendly visit to India from 28 April - 2 May 1982. A high-ranking delegation whose members included under secretaries of the foreign affairs, mines and metals, and higher education and culture ministries and other top-ranking officials accompanied Iran's foreign minister.

His Excellency Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati met and conferred with His Excellency Neelam Sanjiva Reddy, the president; His Excellency Mohammad Hidayatullah, the vice president; Her Excellency Mrs Indira Gandhi, the prime minis' r; His Excellency Venkataraman, the defense minister; His Excellency (Vasant Puroshttam), minister of state for information and broadcasting; His Excellency Tiwari, minister of industry; Her Excellency Mrs Shila Kaul, minister of education and social welfare [as heard]; and His Excellency Shiv Patil, minister of commerce and cooperation.

The foreign ministers of the two countries held a series of official and unofficial talks on topics of mutual interest. The talks were conducted in an atmosphere of extreme friendship, sincerity and openness. The two sides noted the historical and cultural ties between the two nations of Iran and India and pointed out that they have been strengthened as the result of the two nations' struggles for independence from foreign domination.

The Iranian foreign minister's visit played a considerable role in further strengthening friendly relations. The two sides expressed their firm determination and hope to expand and further strengthen their friendly and close relations through an increase in exchanges and mutual visits at various levels.

The foreign ministers of the two countries reviewed the international situation with special concern for recent developments in the region, and expressed pleasure that their views are identical in many fields. The two foreign ministers expressed their firm belief in the important role played by the Nonaligned Movement in promoting international peace and security, and the need for further unity and consolidation of the movement was reiterated. They pointed out that the policy of nonalignment seeks to maintain the world nations' independence from the superpowers and their military pacts, thus enabling these nations to use their resources for the social and economic progress of their peoples.

The two sides noted with concern the worsening international situation and emergence of tensions in various parts of the world, and reiterated their belief in the role of the Nonaligned Movement disassociated from blocs and as a positive resource for peace and security in the world.

The two sides reiterated the urgent need to end the superpowers' presence in the Indian Ocean, which endangers peace and causes increased tension in the region. The two sides called for the implementation of the 1971 UN declaration, which declares the Indian Ocean a zone of peace.

In reviewing the situation in West Asia, the two foreign ministers expressed their extreme concern over Israel's continued aggressions against the defenseless people of Lebanon and the Palestinian inhabitants of the occupied territories. They also condemned Israel's criminal attack on Al-Aqsa Mosque, and the illegal annexation of Jerusalem and the Golan Heights which is a serious danger to world peace and violates international norms. They reiterated their support for the just struggles of the Palestinian people and the PLO as the legitimate representatives of the Palestinian people. The two ministers believe the only solution to the region's crisis is withdrawal of the aggressor forces from all Arab and Palestinian lands.

The Iranian foreign minister explained to the Indian foreign minister his country's views on the expulsion of the regime occupying Jerusalem from the United Nations and the Indian foreign minister expressed his deep concern over the situation resulting from Israel's aggressive conduct and the repeated violation of the UN resolutions and resolutions issued by other international bodies.

The two foreign ministers condemned the aggressive actions carried out by the South Africa racist regime and expressed their support for the liberation struggles of the people of Namibia under the leadership of the South-West African People's Organization.

The two sides, while expressing their grave concern over the situation in Afghanistan, called for a just and comprehensive solution to the issue based on the complete withdrawal of alien forces, on principles of nonintervention and noninterference and on full respect for Afghanistan's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The two sides persistently demanded that all the parties concerned concentrate their efforts on finding a solution which would allow the people of Afghanistan to determine their own destiny without foreign interference.

The Iranian foreign minister explained Iran's point of view with regard to the Iraq-Iran war to his Indian counterpart and the Indian foreign minister expressed his hope for a just settlement to the conflict in the near future.

The two foreign ministers declared their firm desire to promote mutual cooperation in various sectors aimed at further strengthening mutual ties on the basis of independence, self-reliance and friendship, and agreed to take firm and comprehensive action to achieve this purpose. In this connection, special attention should be made to trade and economic cooperation.

The two sides also expressed their desire and decision to expand mutual cooperation in the commerce, industry, oil, mines, agriculture, culture, scientific and technical sectors, and signed a memorandum of agreement on their discussions in which sectors in which the two countries have decided to cooperate are noted.

Indian officials also declared their readiness to allow Iran to benefit from India's technical experiences and the Iranian officials expressed their willingness to cooperate in this field and in all other sectors, including cooperation in agriculture, industry and trade.

The two sides agreed to form a joint Iran-India commission in the near future. The task of this joint commission is to provide grounds for progress in mutual relations in the economic, trade, industry, scientific, technical, cultural and other sectors.

The two sides expressed the need to maintain and promote the two countries' cultural and educational ties, and expressed satisfaction over the presence of a large number of Iranian technical and university students in India.

The two sides decided to resume cultural contacts between the two countries, and to work for their continued expansion. They agreed that the two countries should sign a cultural agreement as soon as possible, thus enabling these contacts to be placed on a firm, orderly and principled foundation.

The foreign affairs minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran expressed his deep gratitude for the warm reception accorded to him and his delegation by the government and the people of India, and extended a warm invitation to the Indian external affairs minister to visit Iran. This invitation was warmly accepted and the visit will take place at a mutually convenient date.

Departs From Delhi

BK020744 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 2 May 82

[Text] Foreign Minister of Iran Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati left New Delhi this morning for Tehran. He was given a warm sendoff at the airport by Information and Broadcasting Minister Vasant Sathe, secretary in the External Affairs Ministry Natwar Singh and senior officials of the Ministry of External Affairs. He was here on a 5-day official visit.

AKALI DAL LEADER SENTENCED TO 1 MONTH IN PRISON

BK011647 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 1 May 82

[Text] The president of the Akali Dal, Jathedar Jagdev Singh Talwandi, courted arrest with 23 supporters in New Delhi today. He has been sentenced to 1 month simple imprisonment by a local court.

GOVERNMENT BANS TWO SIKH NATIONALIST GROUPS

BK011645 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 1 May 82

[Text] The Dal Khalsa and the National Council of Khalistan have been banned. The decision was taken by the union government today. The ban has been imposed under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act.

Making the announcement, an official spokesman said in New Delhi this evening that the two organizations had been openly indulging in antinational and secessionist activity. They constitute a danger to national security and communal harmony. They had been spreading communal hatred and had been responsible for many violent and provocative acts. Some of these have been owned by them publicly.

The All-India Radio correspondent says that banning the two organizations had been recommended by the Punjab Government. There was also considerable concern not only in the state but all over the country as well about the actions of these two organizations. This was expressed in Parliament and various other forums. The government hopes that today's decision will lead to speedy restoration of peace, harmony and mutual trust in the state.

The Dal Khalsa, it may be mentioned, is an extremist organization of some young men having very little followers. It owned responsibility for some violent incidents during September-October last year. It was behind the hijacking of an Indian airlines plane to Pakistan. It is reported to be getting external assistance for its antinational activities. It owned responsibility for committing sacrilege in two temples in Amritsar last Monday [26 April]. It has also declared its intention of continuing its activities.

REPORTAGE ON 30 APR-2 MAY FIGHTING IN SOUTH

Joint Communique No 3

LD301834 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 30 Apr 82

[Joint Communique No 3 of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps]

[Excerpt] Combative and martyr-nurturing Islamic nation: The self-sacrificing Islamic army, following the victorious Jerusalem operations codenamed "Ya 'Ali ibn Abu Talib" have succeeded in killing or wounding thousands of Saddam's aggressive forces. Our forces also managed to take a great many prisoners. By this evening 3,205 had already been taken behind the frontlines.

During these extensive operations, conducted through the central headquarters of the joint operational staff of the Islamic Ground Forces and the Revolution Guards Corps in Karbala' the Islamic warriors succeeded in liberating extensive sectors of the Islamic homeland which were previously under the control of Iraqi forces. In this particular phase of the operations alone, about 800 square km of the Islamic homeland were liberated, thereby coming under the full control of the Islamic forces.

Moreover, in addition to destroying hundreds of tanks, personnel carriers and enemy vehicles, a great many tanks and personnel carriers as well as one artillery unit of the enemy have been captured intact.

At 1435 today another enemy aircraft was shot down in Abadan by the Islamic air force fighters. Consequently, the number of enemy aircraft downed today totals six.

This lightning liberation is taking place despite the utterances from Saddam, who at noon today harshly told his commanders that if they fail to recover the territories lost today, all of them will be shot. This once again showed the enemy's desperation and weakness against the reinforced Islamic Republic Army.

We call on the Muslim Iraqi Army personnel at this point to come to their senses and not to remain ensnared any longer by the greed of Saddam, this filthy and mad element who is dependent on Zionism. We call on them to join the Islamic forces before it is too late.

Awaiting the ultimate victory of the Islamic warriors and the liberation of Jerusalem from the claws of the occupying Zionism.

Commander Interviewed

LD010954 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 1 May 82

[Text] According to an IRNA report, Col Monfared Niaki, one of the operational commanders in the Fath zone, while giving details in an interview of the attack launched by the Islamic forces during yesterday's successful operations, said: During these operations Islam's forces made use of the element of surprise and demonstrated their unquestionable military superiority over the enemy.

While extolling all the combatants of Islam and the extremely effective cooperation between the construction crusade, the air force and the ground forces' aviation units, he referred to the combatant clergy's active participation on the war fronts and said: An example of the dedication of the combatant clergy and their moral guidance on the fronts was constituted by the presence of Ayatollahs Meshkini and Saduqi in the forward lines of these operations, a fact which produced a desirable psychological effect on the morale of our combatants.

During this interview he described the prospects of this imposed war by saying: We will win this war decidedly since we were unwillingly dragged into it and are really defending the validity of our Islamic ideology, our honor and the territorial integrity of our Islamic homeland.

Joint Communique No 4

LD011218 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 1 May 82

[Joint communique No 4 of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Heroic and proud nation of Islam: The Jerusalem operations, which began yesterday under the codename Ya 'Ali ibn Abu Talib, have been expanded to the Shush fronts early this morning. Islam's combatants launched another surprise attack today. Our combatants launched this attack on the Saddamist invaders after receiving orders from the central headquarters in Karbala'; and succeeded in capturing the important and strategic Hill No 182 near the Fakkeh border.

During this lightning attack, carried out with the blessing of the good prayers of the Islamic nation, our brothers did not suffer any losses; only four of our brothers were wounded. Our brothers succeeded in capturing nearly 700 of the misled invaders. By capturing this group, the total number of Iraqi POW's captured since the start of the Jerusalem operations has now reached 4,000.

Our combative brothers have also succeeded in killing or wounding more than 6,000 Saddamist mercenaries since the start of the Jerusalem operations.

Last night the defeated enemy, who has been pushed back 800 square km from our Islamic homeland through the power of the Islamic combatants and with the succour of God, and who has lost communications and supply lines between Ahvaz and Khuninshahr, launched a last-ditch counteroffensive on one of the axes. During this counteroffensive, the army lost 10 tanks, a large number of troops and equipment were destroyed and they were forced to retreat and flee.

This morning the fast-flying eagles of the air force and the helicopter gunships of the Airborne Division flew over Iraqi positions for the umpteenth time since the start of the operations and inflicted heavy losses and damage on enemy troops and armored equipment. Our fighters also shot down an Iraqi Mirage plane which crashed west of the Karun River.

Yesterday evening our antiaircraft fire also downed another two enemy planes. The total number of enemy planes downed since the start of the Jerusalem operations has now reached nine.

At present, the battle continues on all fronts with superiority of the forces of Islam and our combatants are continuing to deliver heavy and smashing blows to the Saddamist invaders.

According to the latest reports, there are 102 officers among the Iraqi POW's.

The armed forces should know that resistance against the forces of Islam will have no consequences but death and annihilation and the eventual fire of divine wrath. Therefore, the best way for them is to join the forces of Islam and the Muslim warriors of Iran.

In the hope of victory by all combatants and the liberation of Jerusalem from the claws of the occupying Zionism our assistance is from God and our victory is nigh.

Iraqi Officer Interviewed

LD012310 Tehran IRNA in English 1947 GMT 1 May 82

[Text] Ahvaz, 1 May (IRNA) -- During the latest operations, 95 Iraqi officers were transferred behind the fronts of Ahvaz. said an officer in charge of transferring the Iraqi POW's. He said the POW's included second lieutenants to colonels. According to some of the POW's, the Baghdad regime was training some other mercenaries of the Jordanian King Husayn who had lately come to Baghdad.

Colonel Salah Kheshan Muhammad ar-Rekabi, an Iraqi POW, the Second Battalion deputy commander from the 414th Brigade, said in an interview with IRNA that 500 soldiers under his control were captured along with him. Saying he was treated well and was confident in the Islamic combatants' support, the colonel said that he was confident of the defeat of the Iraqi Army, for there was no morale in Saddam's army and all of them had become tired of the war, especially as the Iranian Muslim combatants' power was being revealed to the Iraqi forces. That, he said, was the reason why his battalion surrendered themselves without any resistance at the first moment.

The Iraqi colonel, saying Saddam had imposed the war, recalled that although Saddam's army had good weapons, his soldiers' morale was very low.

Joint Communique No 5

GF020625 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 2 May 82

[Joint communique No 5 of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps]

[Excerpts] The clamorous action of the very able Islamic combatants in their widespread offensive against the Saddamist aggressors continues. The forces of Islam continue to deal their blows against the deceived enemy and their world-devouring masters with reliance on the Almighty's power and His hidden help and the aid of the mahdi.

Zealous and Muslim nation: The fighters of the forces of Islam -- chanting "God is great" -- expanded their attacks this morning, continuing the Jerusalem operation which began under the codename Ya 'Ali ibn Abu Talib, and dealt another blow aginst the enemy.

The Islamic fighters in a quick and surprising attack at 0100 today were able to kill or wound a considerable number of the enemy forces and destroy tens of enemy tanks and personnel carriers. They thus strengthened their positions on the other side of Ahvaz-Khuninshahr road.

These new operations were carried out following the progress of the forces of Islam, their crossing of the Karun River and the capture and liberation of the areas west of Karun River as well as the capture of the important supply and communication route between Ahvaz and Khuninshahr. In the operation, which was another grave blow against Saddam, hundreds more of the deceived Iraqis were captured by the forces of Islam. The evacuation of the prisoners behind the fronts began this morning and the exact statistics and the details of the referent operation will be included in the next communique for the information of the revolutionary and martyr-nurturing nation.

In the hope of the final victory of the fighters of Islam and the liberation of Jerusalem from the claws of the occupying Zionists. "Victory from God and a speedy conquest." [Koranic verse]

Invitation to Reporters

GF020627 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0608 GMT 2 May 82

[Communique issued by War Publicity Staff]

[Text] The War Publicity Staff invites foreign correspondents in Tehran to visit the areas liberated in the first phase of Jerusalem operation, interview the captured Iraqi commanders, visit over 4,000 captured enemy personnel and observe the annihilation of the Iraqi forces in the southern region of the Islamic homeland.

In order to participate in this program, which begins today, foreign correspondents should contact the foreign press office of the Ministry of Islamic Guidance.

Area Liberated

GF020710 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0622 GMT 2 May 82

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] In continuation of the victorious Jerusalem operation, the zealous fighters of Islam were able to liberate another part of the Iranian soil west of Hoseyniyeh road early this morning, thus cleansing the area of the aggressive Ba'thist forces.

According to reports by IRNA correspondents on the frontlines, during this victorious operation, which began at 0100, hundreds more enemy soldiers, NCO's and officers were captured by the Islamic fighters and a great deal of enemy equipment was either destroyed or captured undamaged.

In the operation, the enemy was defeated in areas across from Hoseyniyeh, Navard and Garm Dasht stations and all their strong lines of defense collapsed.

In this phase of the operation, a large number of Iraqi aggresssors were killed, wounded or fled toward Iraq and hundreds were captured. Tens of kilometers of occupied soil of the Islamic homeland were wrested from the claws of the enemies of the Islamic revolution after 19 months of occupation.

The first dispatches from IRNA reporters in the battle zone this morning indicate that tens of tanks, personnel carriers and various other vehicles of the Iraqi Ba'thist aggressors have been destroyed and the remaining forces are desperately trying to find a way back toward the Iraqi border.

According to the same report, the Islamic fighters have complete control over the area and the smallest movement by the enemy is not lost on our heroes. The evacuation of the personnel captured in this phase of the operation began 2 hours after the attack and still continues. Reports by correspondents, quoting evacuated prisoners, indicate that the military formation of the Saddamist army in this front collapsed immediately following the attack this morning by the defendants of the Islamic revolution. All their personnel were either killed, wounded or captured or escaped. The exact number of captured will be announced later.

We remind you that the Jerusalem operations which began on Friday morning have liberated the entire western region of the Karun River up to the Ahvaz-Khuninshahr road, which is over 800 square km. The mopping-up operation in the area ended yesterday. The present operation of the Islamic fighters is located west of the road, which is only 15 km from the border. They have entered this area and have crushed the enemy strongholds.

Armardeh Heights Recaptured

LD021240 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 2 May 82

[Text] According to an IRNA report, following the recapture of the heights of (Hafat Tavanon) and (Serahi-ye Bunin) in the Baneh region, the combatants of Islam, in a series of successful operations carried out at dawn yesterday, recaptured the strategic heights of the city of Armardeh.

According to this report, the recapture of this region has brought all the roads from Baneh to the border under the control of the forces of Islam.

Air Force Attacks Iraqis

LD020830 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0809 GMT 2 May 82

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Dear listeners: We have just received this report: The Islamic air force pilots continue to achieve victories on the battlefronts. According to IRNA, at 0630 this morning, eight air force fighters heavily bombarded concentrated enemy positions at (Shay Jufayr). These positions were composed of fortifications and armored equipment.

Since launching the Jerusalem operation, our heroic pilots have repeatedly dealt smashing blows to the Saddam army, thus demonstrating their combat capabilities.

Forces 15 Km From Border

LD021152 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 2 May 82

[Excerpt] In the first stage of the Jerusalem operations, which started on Friday morning, the whole western area situated between the Karun River and the Ahvaz-Khuninshahr road -- which is more than 800 square km -- was liberated. Mopping-up operations in that area ended yesterday. Continuing these operations, the heroes of Islam have penetrated to the west of the road, and are only 15 km away from the border. They have crushed the enemy's fortifications in this region.

The number of enemy POW's captured in today's operations launched by the forces of Islam in the north of Khuninshahr has reached 1,000.

Iraqi Counterattacks Repulsed

LD022054 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 2 May 82

[Excerpt] Latest reports received from the Hoseyniyeh region indicate that since this morning the enemy in this region has mounted three counteroffensives, but each time faced our warriors' resistance. While repulsing enemy counteroffensives, in addition to killing more Saddamists, our forces destroyed 10 tanks, 15 130-mm guns, 1 pile of equipment and several items of command equipment.

Khamene'i on 'Delay'

NC020806 Paris AFP in English 0746 GMT 2 May 82

[Text] Tehran, 2 May (AFP) -- Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i has acknowledged that there has been a "certain delay" in reaching some of the objectives of the "holy city" offensive launched early Friday in the southern war front with Iraq, the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC newspaper reported today.

"As long as we have not reached our objectives, the operations will continue," Hojjat ol-Eslam Khamene'i told the newspaper. "They can last three or seven days, more or less."

He said there had been few Iranian casualties in the fighting, and that the Iranian Army was confronted with a natural obstacle -- the marshy terrain around the fortified position of Hamid, the key to the region south of Ahvaz. This, he said, explained why Hamid was only "almost surrounded".

Meanwhile the latest official communique broadcast by Radio Tehran today said that Iranian forces were pursuing their advance on the southern front and strengthening the positions they captured west of the Ahvaz-Khuninshahr (formerly Khorramshahr) highway.

The statement gave no figures, either of occupied territory or Iraqi losses. Already yesterday, the fourth communique issued since this new offensive began did not talk about any further gains in this part of the front, but Iran has claimed to have shot down 10 Iraqi planes since Friday.

Goods Needed at Front

GF021626 Ahvaz Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 2 May 82

[Text] Our combatant brothers at the front need Coleman water coolers, lemon juice, canned fruit, iceboxes, khakshir [seeds used in cooling drinks], food preserves and green fabric.

Joint Communique No 6

LD021804 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 2 May 82

[Joint communique No 6 of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps]

[Excerpts] Combative warriors and honor-bestowing victors of the army of Islam, continuing the victorious Jerusalem operations, in a lightning and surprise attack which began at 0100 today against enemy positions west of the strategic Ahvaz-Khorramshahr highway, pounded the aggressive forces' fortifications and inflicted heavy losses and casualties on them.

In these operations, which resulted in liberating another area of the sacred Islamic territory on the other side of the Hoseyniyeh and Garm Dasht stations, elements of the Eighth Mechanized Brigade of the Third Division and of the 606th Infantry Brigade and the 24th Mechanized Brigade of the enemy were smashed. In addition, enemy defense lines in the region were completely destroyed; the victorious combatants of Islam killed or wounded large numbers of enemy forces and captured hundreds more. Furthermore, a large number of tanks, troop carriers, vehicles and several enemy ammunition dumps were set ablaze and destroyed by the forces of Islam; a large quantity of enemy equipment and facilities were captured by the proud victors of Islam's army. At the moment about 84 intact and destroyed enemy tanks and troop carriers are left behind in the area of today's operation.

In the course of the heroic operations of the quick-flying aircraft of the air force, one of our aircraft crashed. One of the pilots was martyred and another landed near the enemy positions.

It is hereby announced that the protection of the life of the heroic pilot of the army of Islam is the responsibility of the Iraqi Ba'th regime.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUE 875

LD011830 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 1 May 82

[Communique 875 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In the name of God. Following the epic-making Jerusalem operations of 30 April, the selfless valiants and high-flying pilots of the Air Force of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran shot down three more Iraqi aggressor aircrafts in the south of the country. These aircraft were shot down at 0845, 1048 and 1505. So far the Iraqis have lost nine aircraft since the launching of the Jerusalem operations. Today our air force also bombed Iraqi positions at 0815, 1157 and 1725 in the regions of Jofeyr between Hamid and Jofeyr station, west of Jofeyr station and west of Ahvaz respectively. Our forces inflicted considerable losses and casualties on the Iraqi forces. Our air force also checked enemy attempts to violate the airspace of the war regions.

Other selfless and self-sacrificing combatants of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, stationed on the western war fronts, aware of the successful operations carried out by their brothers on the Khuzestan fronts opened fire on the infidel Saddamist positions. The outcome of these operations will be carried later.

Fighting and fire exchanges are continuing on the Baneh and Marivan fronts. A large number of Iraqi forces were killed and wounded during the joint 29 April operations carried out on the Salehabad front, in which the infantry and armored units of the army and Guards Corps participated. One 106-mm fieldgun, one supply concentration, one antiaircraft cannon, two mortars and several artillery and tank positions of the enemy were set of fire and destroyed.

Fire exchanges continued on the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab and Sumar fronts. The valiants of the army opened fire on the enemy positions and destroyed a number of the enemy's supply and observation posts on the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab front. A number of enemy personnel were also killed during these operations.

Our forces brought an Iraqi motor pool under fire and destroyed a number of vehicles.

Our forces have also inflicted considerable losses and casualties on the Iraqis on the Gilan-e Gharb fronts.

On the Gilan-e Gharb, Dar Ballut, [word indistinct] and Sar-e Pol-e Zahab fronts, the brave personnel of Islamic armed forces fired on enemy positions and inflicted losses and casualties on the Iraqi forces.

On the Ilam fronts, the gendarmerie combatants opened mortar fire, preventing enemy movement and activity. A number of Iraqi personnel were killed or wounded during these operations.

VELAYATI DENIES OIL SALES, RELATIONS WITH U.S.

LD011248 Tehran IRNA in English 1048 GMT 1 May 82

[Excerpt] New Delhi, 1 May (IRNA) -- The Islamic Republic of Iran has had no relations with the United States, said Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, the Iranian foreign minister, in an interview with New Delhi radio reporter, broadcast on Friday night in India. Velayati also added that if Iran had commercial relations with a country, including oil sales, and subsequently that country sold oil to a third party, then that was a different matter totally unrelated to Iran. He emphasised that Iran had not sold oil to the United States and while the United States continued its enmity towards the Islamic revolution, Iran would never think of having any relations with that country.

VELAYATI INTERVIEWED UPON RETURN FROM INDIA

LD021258 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 2 May 82

[Text] According to a Central News Unit correspondent, Foreign Minister Velayati and his entourage left New Delhi at 0900 today after a 4-day visit, arriving in Tehran at 1125. He was seen off at New Delhi airport by the Indian ministers of external affairs and information and a number of Indian dignitaries. The Iranian foreign minister, in an interview given to our correspondent, commented on the visit from the political, economic and cultural aspects. We draw your attention to the interview:

[Begin recording] [Question] Dr Velayati, could you please comment on the outcome of your 4-day visit to India in the light of its political, economic and cultural aspects?

[Answer] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The visit has a special (?significance) for Iran, India, the region and the Nonaligned Movement. We have long-standing historical, cultural and religious relations.

At present, as a revolutionary and powerful country, Iran is in one of the most sensitive world regions, with a considerable [word indistinct] throughout the world being focused on Iran and the changes taking place in it. Iran is a country with a long record in fighting colonialism. It is also one of the chief founders of the Nonaligned Movement. [passage indistinct]

We held two rounds of talks with the Indian minister of external affairs. The sum total of these talks [words indistinct] culminated in the signing of a memorandum of understanding and the release of a joint communique.

The joint communique outlines the two countries' joint stance on the region's political framework and the [word indistinct] world. It deals with relations with Israel, Afghanistan, the Nonaligned Movement and peace in the region. As for our joint views concerning the Iraqi-imposed war on Iran, the joint communique deals quite accurately, positively and constructively with the subject as far as both countries are concerned.

With regard to the memorandum of understanding signed between the two countries, it paves the ground for the future cooperation between India and Iran in economic, trade, industrial and cultural fields. We already have such ties with India, but, having signed this memorandum of understanding, the ground becomes highly fertile for maximum expansion of these relations.

A highly significant point in the memorandum deals with the supply of Indian technology to us. Accordingly, we are to provide India with our experience in the field of oil industry.

India agreed to study the issue of increasing oil purchases from Iran. Reciprocally, we asked India to provide us with essential goods for the expansion of industrial units, such as a steel-plant complex.

Another issue raised between Iran and India was the question of joint research projects, sending students for medical and technical studies and helping Iran to become self-reliant in the medical and technical fields. These matters were included in the memorandum of understanding. It was also agreed that Indian experts in various fields should come to Iran, [words indistinct]. Iranian (?experts) will go to India. God willing, fruitful cooperation between the two countries will continue. [end recording]

KEYHAN CARRIES 20 APR QOTBZADEH INTERVIEW

GF011550 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 20 Apr 82 p 14

["Text" of interview and statement by former Foreign Minister Sadeq Qotbzadeh televised on 20 April]

[Text] Question: While introducing yourself, could you please state the reason for your arrest?

Answer: I am Sadeq Qotbzadeh and the reason for my arrest is the plan, named the Plan for the Overthrow. I will try to explain the plan, its motives, the net result we have achieved so far, step by step.

Prior to everything else was the plan. Some time ago, about 3 months ago, I was contacted by an officers organization. We analyzed the country's situation during the course of our conversation. In this analysis I expressed some opinions and they did too. Therefore, after accepting my views, discussions regarding the toppling of the government, not the Islamic Republic, ensued; the infrastructure was delineated and what was to be done around the residence of the imam. On the basis of this, first there was the talk of a siege. They wanted a map of the takeover. A map which had been prepared by one of my friends was given to them.

It was an ordinary map and they said that it did not seem quite accurate. They suggested that it would be better to go and get a firsthand view. They went and I introduced them to a friend of mine who had a house adjacent to the imam's. They saw the house and, during the course of our visit, when we sat down they said it seemed to be a very suitable place for an explosion. They said: Very well, but what kind of explosion? And from then onward the discussion veered around the kind of explosion, the place and how it was to be done.

The next week, which was 2 weeks before my arrest, they came and said: Our organization has decided to make a two-pronged attack, one with artillery and another if possible from the interior of the house.

Question: What was the objective?

Qotbzadeh: The objective was to wipe out all the leaders of the government, including the imam. In the initial stages of the matter, I was in an anguished mental state. The question was whether to say yes or no. In short, I unfortunately said yes in the beginning and "let's consider this issue and see what can be done." But I did not answer in the negative.

They went and checked the plan and returned the next week and said: "We think the plan should include an attack on the place as well, and the rest of the plan could be accomplished as if to avenge the blood of the imam. The people should also be involved in the plan and panic when they try to escape."

It was decided that they should go and recheck the whole plan and a few days before its implementation they should make the final decision. At that moment I was seized by qualms as I had not opposed the plan in the beginning. I made up my mind that in the final discussion of the plan I would oppose the attack on the imam's residence at Jamaran in view of the feelings I had for the imam, but of course I was in favor of the rest of the plan, for example, taking control of the military centers, committees, radio and television, and the surrounding of Jamaran.

This plan, if implemented, was quite practical, that is, up to that stage. However, as I said, it did not reach the final stage of approval and I was arrested before it could attain a concrete shape.

Question: How did you expect to take explosives to Jamaran?

Qotbzadeh: This was also discussed, whether it was possible to take explosives there. It was planned that they could be smuggled along with construction material. One of the persons involved, an officer, said: I promise to take the explosives inside the house along with construction materials. But he also came to the conclusion later that the only way was an attack from far off. The chances were rather slim from close quarters.

Question: Was it decided to bring arms from abroad as well?

Qotbzadeh: No, not at all. This was not the case because the period for the implementation of the plan was envisaged as being 2 weeks. The question of arms from abroad did not arise.

Question: What is the connection with the arms?

Qotbzadeh: First of all, they told me that they had arms, ammunition and all the equipment and that they did not need anything. But some time later, about 1 month ago, they asked me, that is, they gave me a small list which included some light weapons which they said they needed. I answered that I would try to procure them and sent the list abroad, but in practice the possibility of procuring them was hindered due to a paucity of funds.

Question: Whom did you contact in this respect and who was supposed to provide them?

Qotbzadeh: The issue of contacts with foreign parties in itself requires another discussion.

Question: We will discuss this. However, which foreign force was to be contacted for arms, who did you ask and with whom did you specifically coordinate?

Qotbzadeh: I only sent the list to one of my friends, Mr (Bilran), and asked him if it was possible to obtain them. He said that if there was money it would be possible to get them through dealers. There was no money and they were not obtained.

Question: In the plan that you had in mind, how was it possible that the imam would be safe but the rest would die during the explosion?

Qotbzadeh: Yes, as I said, this was a problem since the discussion of the explosion had finally reached the point of discussing total destruction. Because of my feelings for the imam, I was not ready to accept this and had decided to oppose it.

Question: How much money did you provide for this group?

Qotbzadeh: During my interrogations I gave the details of my financial sources. In all, I provided this group with 2.25 million tomans and 0.5 million tomans to the two or three persons I saw during the last days. This is the total amount of money I provided them.

Question: Did you discuss the plan for toppling the system of the Islamic Republic with other forces, religious figures or sources of emulation?

Qotbzadeh: There were no forces. As for sources of emulation, only through a mediator was the topic discussed with Ayatollah Shari'atmadari. Of course, you will note that I have not traveled for nearly a year, even to Qom. Therefore, I did not have personal contacts. But through the two mediators that I referred to, who were in contact with him [Shari'atmadari], I learned that the basic plan was presented to him.

During the past 2 or 3 months, Hojjat el-Eslam Mahdavi went there once and talked with him, with Ayatollah Shari'atmadari. Ayatollah Shari'atmadari's attitude toward the whole affair was very cautious.

When Hojjat ol-Eslam Mahdavi went abroad, I asked Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Abdolreza Hejazi to discuss the matter with His Holiness Ayatollah Shari'atmadari. I gave the outlines of the plan, that is to say, the general basis of the plan, to Mr Hejazi. Mr Hejazi told me he discussed it with Ayatollah Shari'atmadari.

Mr Hejazi informed me that he said that he could not do anything prior to the implementation of the plan, but he said: I will endorse him and will act after the plan is carried out.

This event passed and one again I had a discussion with Mr Hejazi, and Mr Hejazi went again. When he came back the second time he said that the discussion was identical but Ayatollah Shari'atmadari was badly scared. This event, which occurred 1 1/2 months ago, passed.

Then Ayatollah Mahdavi came back. I again told Mr Mahdavi and he upon his return [from Qom] said that his [Shari'atmadari's] views were the same and if the overthrow took place he would endorse it and would act. One or two days later Mr Mahdavi gave me some money, around 500,000 tomans and said that he got the money from Ayatollah Shari'atmadari to buy a house. This was the only money I received. These were the extent of the contacts. As I said, I was not in contact with him and I did not speak to him except through these two mediators, but he was aware of the course of action.

Question: Was Mr Abbasi also aware of these actions?

Qotbzadeh: I personally have not seen Mr Abbasi for nearly a year, but I presume from what these gentlemen said that during their meetings Mr Abbasi was probably also present.

Question: What is Mr Abbasi's relationship with Mr Shari'atmadari?

Qotbzadeh: Mr Abbasi is Ayatollah Shari'atmadari's son-in-law. And whether Mr Abbasi was in contact or not should be asked of these two gentlemen because they know whether he was in the meeting or not. However, as I have not seen Mr Abbasi or Ayatollah Shari'atmadari, I cannot say if he was there or not. Those gentlemen will clarify whether he was in contact or not. Anyway, this is the situation and these are the problems that I now face. I previously have said that I will receive the punishment most willingly.

Question: When was the last meeting that Seyyed Mehdi Mahdavi had with Shari'atmadari and what was its result?

Qotbzadeh: About a week before my arrest. As there was not enough time and I did not see him for more than a few minutes, what he told me briefly, as I previously told you, was that if there was an action he [Shari'atmadari] would totally endorse it after its victory. May peace, mercy and the blessing of God be upon you.

KHOMEYNI'S OFFICE ISSUES MESSAGE OF THANKS

LD011234 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 1 May 82

[Statement issued by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni's office on 1 May]

[Text] In His exalted name. Following the discovery of the coup plot hatched by a group which had sold itself to the arch-Satan, a great many telegrams and letters condemning the plot have been received by this office and brought to the attention of His Holiness Imam Khomeyni -- may his lofty shadow grow. We hereby wish to extend the thanks of his holiness to all those who sent telegrams, and various personages and institutions and we apologize for not being able to reply to all separately due to our immense tasks and problems and beseech Almighty God to grant success and victory to all the combatants on the fronts and those who are sacrificing themselves along the path of Islam and Muslims.